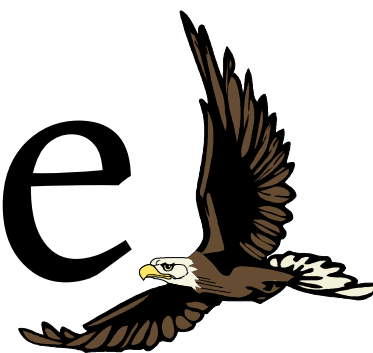


Border Eagle



Vol. 47, No. 23

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Training the world's best pilots

June 18, 1999

Newsline

A glance at news affecting Laughlin



Pilot awards

The graduation awards for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 99-10 were as follows:

1st Lt. Jason R. Ginn: Academic Training Award.

Capt. William D. Hall: Outstanding Officer.

Capt. Clark J. Quinn: Academic Training Award; Daedalian Award; Flying Training Award; Distinguished Graduate; Order of Daedalians AETC Commander's Trophy.

1st Lt. Randall B. Sealy: Flying Training Award; Distinguished Graduate; Order of Daedalians AETC Commander's Trophy.

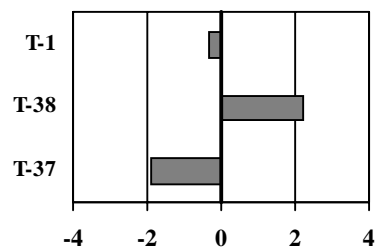
Commander's call

The 47th Support Group commander's call is today at 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the OTC auditorium. For more information, call 5373.

47 FTW mission status

(As of June 16)

Student Timeline



Days (+ ahead / - behind)

Sorties flown in FY 99:
46,379

Hours flown in FY 99:
67,428.1

Pilot wings earned in FY 99:
205

Pilot wings earned since 1963:
11,247

Number one! *Topete named Air Force's top aerospace physiology senior noncommissioned officer*

By Senior Airman
Mike Hammond

Editor

A senior noncommissioned officer assigned to the 47th Aerospace Medicine Squadron has been named the Air

Force's aerospace physiology senior NCO of the year for 1998.

Master Sgt. Manuel Topete, NCO in charge of aerospace physiology training and additional duty superintendent of the 47 AMDS, was presented the award June 10 by

Col. Dan R. Goodrich, 47th Flying Training Wing commander.

Topete was recognized for literally doing two full-time jobs at once during 1998. As squadron superintendent, he directly supervised 32 enlisted members. While in that role, he also took the time to manage the aerospace physiology training flight, and the flight has seen several improvements under his leadership. The student pilot satisfaction rate for the training provided by the flight is at the highest level in two years, and the flight has been recognized five times as an outstanding base unit.

Topete said doing his job provides him a great sense of mission accomplishment. "The aerospace physiology flight provides the groundwork for pilot training on base," he said. "We teach them (pilots in training) about the effects of altitude on the body, about the use of oxygen equipment and proper diet, as well as all types of emergency training," he said. Some examples of emergency training provided by the flight are ejection and landing procedures and ground egress – leaving the aircraft if trouble occurs.

In addition to providing training to student pilots, Topete said the flight also supports the many instructor pilots on base by offering refresher training each month.

Because training the flight provides must be completed before a pilot can advance to the next phase, any equipment failures or other shortcomings in the flight could lead to a delay in pilot training. "My people bend over backward to ensure each pilot is ready for the next phase of training, and in the time I've been here there have been no training delays attributed to our flight," explained Topete.

While the sergeant is quick to credit those he works with for the flight's success, his supervisor says there's more to it. According to Capt. Steve Burrow, aerospace physiology training flight commander, Topete's own talents have contributed to that success. "He certainly has a great deal of knowledge

See 'Topete,' page 8



Photo by Senior Airman Mike Hammond

Topete checks the belts fastening Airman Jason Menningen to the seat of the MH-15 ejection seat trainer in the aerospace physiology training center. The trainer is designed to ensure student pilots have proper body position when ejecting from an aircraft, and is one of many different training methods used by the aerospace physiology training flight to prepare pilots for the rigors of flying.

t
h
e **inside
scoop**

View from the top ...

Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, AETC commander, addresses quality of life issues and how they are critical to retention.

Page 2

Use or lose leave ...

Air Force special leave accrual program prevents members from losing leave due to unforeseen deployments.

Page 3

Summer sun ...

Keeping some common sense tips in mind this summer decreases risk of sun-related health problems.

Page 3

Improving quality of life critical to retention



A View from the Top

Gen. Lloyd W. Newton

Air Education and Training Command commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – In my April column, I wrote that, along with recruiting needs, our challenge is to keep good people in the Air Force. Improving our quality of life – factors as diverse as job satisfaction, housing or recreation services – is critical to retention. Notice I didn't include "pay" as a prominent retention factor. Pilot bonuses help and overall pay raises are welcome, especially to our newer, younger members. But a pay increase alone is not a cure-all. As Senior Master Sgt. Jim Dossey wrote in a Sheppard Air Force Base Senator (base newspaper) column, two airmen he talked with said they'd "probably not" re-enlist if given \$50 more each pay period. They probably would re-up if given more leadership opportunities, more job recognition and more avenues for job satisfaction.

How can we improve job satisfaction? What factors influence quality of life? Last month, we brought together at Randolph 68 diverse members of our total Air Force team – officers, enlisted, civilians, spouses and contractors throughout AETC. The objective was to discuss the wide range of quality of life issues that they believe affect all of us.



the QoL standards where people live and work; and then, to brainstorm possible actions to resolve those concerns.

I'm impressed with the workshop's results. The issues, concerns and suggested actions these representatives developed provide a meaningful starting point for AETC and Air Force leaders to direct our energies toward improving the Air Force quality of life.

The workshop identified health care concerns, the frustration of spare parts shortages, the limits of base housing and many other important issues. In various ways, these diverse topics all significantly impact our job performance, our satisfaction with being in the Air Force and the ultimate success of our daily mission performance.

We have an after-action committee that will track every issue; even those not identified as the top 10 for

We held a similar gathering in 1997 and this year's meeting followed-up on the earlier initiatives and raised current concerns. As they began, I urged the participants not to hold back about QoL concerns. Their charter and challenge was to bring to the attention of our senior leadership the issues they believe reduce

each category. They will monitor the progress toward resolution of each issue. Maybe a change in how we do things will be required, or a clarification in policy may be needed.

Whatever the requirements, I pledge that AETC will work hard to resolve our QoL concerns through all available means and avenues.

Some concerns however, fall outside the control of AETC. For example, we'll take forward to Air Force headquarters the issues of retirement benefits and TRICARE costs and coverage. We'll support your interest and monitor the process as they are worked at that level.

Command leadership and policy issues are not the only elements that affect job satisfaction and quality of life. Each one of us should consider how we could improve the job and personal satisfaction of those we serve with as well as ourselves. Do you contribute in positive ways in your unit, neighborhood and base? Do you engage in healthy or unhealthy lifestyle choices? Is your social or spiritual life enriching or deflating? I believe such choices and attitudes greatly impact overall job satisfaction and quality of life.

These personal aspects don't diminish our Command's duties toward QoL, but we must exercise personal responsibilities, too. No leadership structure, no matter how well intended, can deliver "quality of life" without full participation of those involved. So, get involved. Take action. Why? Because your Air Force and your nation need you.

(AETCNS)

Commander's corner

Warriors and The Little Blue Book

By Maj. Lou Cherry

47 FTW staff judge advocate

Just the other day I had the opportunity to talk to a retired Air Force colonel. Not that talking to retired Air Force colonels is anything special. There are lots of retired Air Force colonels. But this conversation was different. It wasn't one of those, oh, you know, "How's the weather" conversations. It wasn't a conversation about law or even about Laughlin. It

didn't last long. And in reality it wasn't all that profound. But in reflection, it was a reality check. It covered two topics: warriors and The Little Blue Book. Please allow me to share briefly the high points of this conversation. These high points should be nothing new to anyone. In fact, there shouldn't be a need to review them. But, all of us are human. And all of us, now and then, need a reminder of what we do and who we are.

Each and every one of us is a warrior. If you don't think of yourself as a warrior, you are, in my opinion, in the wrong business. We work for the U.S. Air Force – not U.S. Airways. If you don't think of yourself as a warrior (for example, perhaps you view yourself as a technician), you might be missing the whole point of the U.S. Air Force. After all is said and done, the U.S. Air Force exists

See 'Warriors,' page 6

Father's Day: it's about time!

By Senior Airman Mike Hammond

Editor

Time is a funny thing. We take it, make it, have it, waste it, kill it, fill it, pass it and spend it. But there never seems to be enough of it.

When I was a young child, passing time riding my bike around the neighborhood with friends or playing with G.I. Joe and Transformer action figures, it seemed like I would never grow up. In those carefree days, I used to imagine what it would be like to be a grown-up – and my dad, of course, served as the basis for many of my expectations. What's it like to go to work, I wondered, and why would anyone want to do that, anyway? But I was curious, nonetheless.

See 'Time,' page 6

Actionline

Call 298-5351

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.


Col. Dan R. Goodrich

47th Flying Training Wing commander



AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Social Actions	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Border Eagle

Col. Dan R. Goodrich
Commander

1st Lt. Angela O'Connell
Public Affairs officer

Senior Airman Mike Hammond
Editor

Published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Border Eagle are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. Photographs herein are official U.S. Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Del Rio Publishing Company of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color or religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing.

Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, Ext. 5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.** Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday. Submissions can be E-mailed to: michael.hammond@laughlin.af.mil or reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

***"Excellence –
not our goal, but
our standard."***

– 47 FTW motto

Safety Stats

As of June 11
(Fiscal Year)

	'99	Total '98
On-duty mishaps	2	11
Off-duty mishaps	9	7
Traffic mishaps	1	4
Sports & Rec mishaps	5	3
Fatalities	0	2

Leave: use it or lose it?

By Capt. John N. Bryan
AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — It's mid-August, the leave paperwork is signed, and you can't wait to load the family in the trusty station wagon to head to Wally World for the annual vacation.

Suddenly, you get a call from your functional manager at Air Force Personnel Center. The manager says you've been picked to support a four-month deployment to Albania, and you have to leave in two days! So much for that long awaited family vacation.

This scenario may seem unrealistic, but the potential exists due to increased deployments in support of contingencies and crises around the world. Some Air Force members have lost leave as a result of last-minute temporary duty assignments, and don't realize there is a program in place to help those encountering this situation.

The special leave accrual program is designed to prevent military members from losing accrued leave in excess of 60 days, if they cannot take normal leave due to unforeseen mission requirements. Excess leave is normally lost at the end of the fiscal year, which is Sept. 30.

Certain rules, such as length of deployment and the scope of the operational mission you're involved in, determine SLA eligibility. For these specific rules and eligibility requirements, read Air Force In-

struction 36-3003, Section E, at <http://afpubs.hq.af.mil>.

Many members believe permanent change of station moves, scheduled TDYs, base closures and convalescent leaves that interfere with taking normal leave allow them to apply for SLA, but they do not. In addition, if the member returns from a deployment and has the opportunity to take leave but doesn't, the leave will normally be lost.

However, members who are not eligible for SLA can request recovery of days lost by submitting an application to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records.

According to personnel officials, it's important to plan to take leave each year. And, although you can't plan for the contingency or deployment that hasn't happened yet, you can implement a strategy to take that excess leave before September arrives. Personnel officials recommend starting leave early in the fiscal year. This ensures you get a head start on not losing excess leave, while preparing for that TDY that might pull you at the last minute.

But, if you get caught by a short notice TDY and aren't able to take that planned vacation, SLA is there to help ensure you can carry that excess leave balance forward into the new fiscal year. Unit orderly rooms and military personnel flights can help. All you have to do is ask.

(AETCNS)

Know how to prevent sun over-exposure

By Staff Sgt. Mona Ferrell
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Roll out the barbecues and get the beach blanket. The lazy days of summer are quickly approaching. While sun-drenched weather may be perfect for tanning on the beach, it's important to remember that unprotected exposure to the sun can be dangerous.

According to the American Cancer Society, long-term sun exposure causes more than one million cases of skin cancer to be diagnosed annually in the United States. In addition to skin cancer, the sun's dangerous ultra-violet rays also increase the risk of cataracts and other eye problems.

Although long-term sun exposure can be harmful, it doesn't have to be. Follow a few of the basic guidelines and precautions listed below to enjoy the weather while protecting yourself.

Limit direct sun exposure during midday: ultraviolet rays are strongest during the hours of 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Use a sunscreen: using a sunscreen for protection will not totally eliminate your risk, but it does help. Experts recommend using a sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor of 15 or higher.

The SPF represents the level of protection the lotion or oil will provide. A lotion with a SPF of 15 will receive the equivalent of one minute of the sun's rays every 15 minutes. Sunscreen should also be applied liberally and according to the directions on the product label.

Cover up: wearing a hat outside is a good way for people to protect their ears, face, nose and scalp – areas that are often over exposed. In addition, when possible, individuals should try to wear loose-fitting clothing.

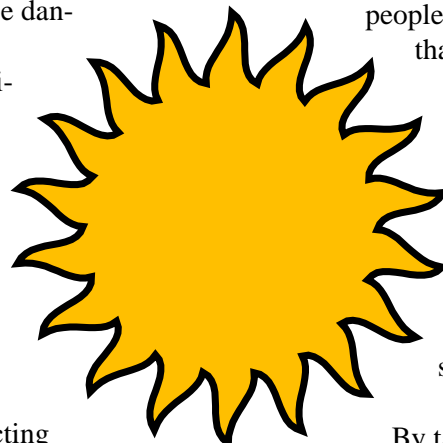
Wear sunglasses: besides eliminating squinting, wearing sunglasses can reduce the sun exposure that is received by the eyes – reducing a person's chances of eye damage. Be sure to check the label on the glasses before purchasing them. A good pair of sunglasses should provide 99 – 100 percent UVB protection.

The key to being safe in the sun is preparation.

By taking these few precautions and realizing the harmful effect overexposure can have on the skin, a person reduces the risk of skin cancer.

More information about skin cancer prevention can be found on the American Cancer Society website: <http://www2.cancer.org/skinGuide/index.html>.

(AETCNS)



Base provides environmental assessment to community

Laughlin proposes to construct an operations complex, consisting of a new 550 square-meter air traffic control tower and a 1,700 square-meter base operations building.

A copy of the draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact is available at the base library and the Val Verde County Library, 300 Spring Street, Del Rio, Texas, for public review and comment.

Laughlin officials have determined the potential environmental impacts will not significantly impact the quality of the environment.

The public is invited to comment on this proposal. Comments should be submitted in writing on or before June 29 to: 47CES/CEV, Attn: Mr. James E. Tayon, P.E., 251 Fourth Street, Laughlin AFB, Texas 78843-5143.

For more information, please contact Tayon, (830) 298-5694, or e-mail him at: james.tayon@laughlin.af.mil.

The *XLer*

Hometown: Merced, Calif.

Family: Husband: Andrew.

Time at Laughlin: 2 years, 10 months.

Time in Air Force: 4 years, 8 months.

Why did you join the Air Force: To serve my country and fly.

Name one way to improve life at Laughlin/ the Air Force: I would like to see better services for those that have retired and for the dependents and family members that are here to support those of us on active duty.

Greatest accomplishment: Marrying my best friend.

Long-term goals: To fly the KC-10 at Travis Air Force Base, have a family and go back to school to get a master's degree in geography.

Hobbies: Sailing, camping, weight lifting, crafting and playing with my dogs.

Favorite food: Calzone.

Favorite beverage: Capuccino with Amaretto.

Bad habit: Popping my knuckles and eating sweets.

Motto: If you can dream it, you can achieve it.

If you could spend one hour with any person in history, who would it be and why? My grandmother who passed away in January. I would like to say good-bye one last time.



Capt. Rebecca Hendrix
84th Flying Training Squadron

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

-Daily Mass 12:05 p.m.
-Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
-Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.
-Confession 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday or by appointment.

-Choir 6 p.m. Thursdays.
-Sunday school, 11 a.m., Religious Education Building.

Protestant

General worship 11 a.m.-
Bible study video luncheon 11 a.m. Thursday, chapel fellowship hall.
-Awana, Wednesdays, chapel from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Jewish

- Max Stool
219 West Strickland St.
Del Rio; Phone: 775-4519

For more information on chapel events and services, call 5111.



From the Blotter (47th Security Forces Squadron)



June 4, 4:50 p.m. Hospital personnel called the Law Enforcement Desk requesting assistance with a distressed individual. The individual was calmed.

June 4, 10 p.m. An active duty member approached the Main Gate and requested medical assistance for his dependent. Ambulance Services responded and provided care.

June 5, 3:25 a.m. A civilian with no base affiliation was detained at the Main Gate for suspicion of driving under the influence. The Val Verde Sheriff's Department responded and took custody of the indi-

vidual and transported him to the County Jail.

Force Protection Tip: Bombings in Atlanta and England have shown that the initial device, call-in threat or fire alarm is merely a way to guide evacuees toward a bigger, more lethal device. To counteract this, Department of Defense counter-terrorism experts recommend evacuating to an open field and away from vehicles, dumpsters and other places which could hide explosive devices.

For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies, call 5100.

47th Medical Group

The Health Consumers Advisory Council is a forum for exchanging information between the providers and consumers of health care at Laughlin.

Representatives from most base organizations and from the retired population meet with members of the Clinic Executive Committee once a quarter on an informal basis. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled at 1 p.m. July 2 in the Wing Conference Room on base. This is a great opportunity to express opinions about health the clinic provides.

For additional information or to indicate attendance, call Mina Rodriguez at 6311.



'Warriors,' from page 2

for just one reason – to defend our nation against all enemies, foreign and domestic. To put it another way: we exist to fight wars. Sure, we say that our primary purpose is to deter war, and this is true. But no one can deter war merely by pushing paper or by punching a computer or by keeping warehouses full or by fixing airplanes or even just by flying airplanes. History teaches us that war is deterred by putting all these things together in a way that allows us to actually *fight* a war – and to fight it to a conclusion that our potential enemies won't find to their liking. And in this fashion, we deter war.

So, if you don't think of yourself as a warrior because you don't drop bombs on a target or you don't expect to shoot at people, at least remember that you are a necessary part of an organization that can do these things, that exists to do them, and which in fact has done them – and is doing them right now! Be a warrior first and then ev-

everything else will come naturally. That's the ticket – warrior-lawyer or warrior-cop or warrior-personnelist or warrior-pilot. Whatever it is, it's still a warrior. In other words, we are airmen first.

Our conversation then turned to the behavior of society and the fact that society must have rules. And that the U.S. Air Force must have rules and discipline. After all, the colonel remarked, we are a government of law, not a government of men. The U.S. Air Force is no different. You don't need to look any further than The Little Blue Book: United States Air Force Core Values. It's right in there. Where, you ask? Try core value number two: service before self. The Air Force's senior leadership decided that rule following was so important, the concept should be included in the core values. It isn't all that difficult of a concept when you come to think of it.

To quote The Little Blue Book on rule following, "To serve is to do one's duty, and

our duties are most commonly expressed through rules. While it may be the case that professionals are expected to exercise judgment in the performance of their duties, good professionals understand that rules have a reason for being, and the default position must be to follow those rules unless there is a clear, operational reason for refusing to do so."

We *must* follow the rules unless there is a "clear operational reason" not to do so. It's clear. It's precise. And it's the rule!

By following the rules, we maintain discipline. By maintaining discipline, we remain an armed force, and avoid becoming an armed rabble. Being a government of law and not a government of men applies to the U.S. Air Force, too.

Some may think that these topics are elementary. But I don't. We all need a reminder. We all need a reality check now and then. So be a warrior and follow the rules.

Thanks, colonel.

'Time,' from page 2

After all, there was so much fun stuff to do! "How can Dad stand working those long hours? Maybe I don't want to imagine being a grown-up, after all," I'm sure I thought more than once.

Well, now I think that time has begun to enlighten me. Not only about what it's like to be a grown-up, but more importantly, what it's like to be a dad. As a child, and even more so as a teenager, I know I took a lot of the things my father did for granted.

Now I understand that my dad was going to work all those hours just to make ends meet – to say nothing of the overtime he took on to make sure that tree had no empty spaces below it come Christmas mornings. Now I understand what it took for him to come home after all that work and still have the energy, and more importantly the will, to spend time playing with me and my sisters and brother.

And now, as I come home at night, whether

on time or late and no matter how much stress the day has produced, I make that effort to hold my little son in my arms and show him his daddy has time for him. Because that, I think, is what being a dad is all about. It's one thing to love your child – all dads do, though each expresses it in his own way. Sharing time with them is what makes a world of difference to a child. It can help them form their expectations and teach them early lessons on parenting that no book can truly explain.

So, this Father's Day, I plan to make sure I spend a little time with my dad. As is the case with many of us in the service, I can't visit my dad Sunday because I am stationed too far away. But that card is in the mail, and my fingers will be dialing that familiar phone number Sunday.

I'm going to thank my dad for what he did for me, and I want to thank all the dads who take the time to be with their children. That time you spend means far more to your children than all the bikes or G.I. Joe action figures you could ever buy them.

Border Eagle
deadline:
*is Thursday, the week prior
to publication*

***Happy
Father's
Day!***

Question of the week

How has being a father impacted your life?



"Children are the ultimate roller coaster ride of life – incredible highs and lows – I've been barely hanging on, enjoying the ride."

Lt. Col. Richard Dalton
85th Flying Training Squadron



"It has stabilized my life and made it whole. It has completed our family."

Mark R. Maxfield
Club XL general manager



"Being a father completes a circle of happiness with a never ending desire to better this world."

Javier Cardenas
47th Operations Group



"It has kept me from being a 'social butterfly.' Because of my responsibilities as a single parent, I focus my time and energies on being the best parent I can."

John Freeman
85th Flying Training Squadron

Children need positive male, as well as female, role models. If you aren't a father, then be a father-figure – mentor a child in your community.

‘Topete,’ from page 1

and expertise in the field, and is very hard-working,” said the captain. “He relates well to those he leads – he gives people guidance and instruction and then lets them have the freedom to get the job done in their own way.”

Burrow said Topete has been an outstanding advocate of the

enlisted members of the squadron, having spearheaded the efforts to eliminate charge of quarters duty – which was adversely affecting the morale of the troops involved. The sergeant took the time to research and document the relationship between work-hours spent in support of CQ and the average occurrence of any events requir-

ing that duty. Based in part on his findings, others in the 47th Medical Group were able to come up with the telephone voice mail system now in place. Topete said doing away with the CQ duty saves more than 8,400 working hours and \$71,000 each year.

As for being identified as the best in the Air Force in his field,

Topete said that, while he was very honored to win, he had lots of help along the path to success. “My award really reflects on the unit,” he said. “If the unit wasn’t so effective – if the people didn’t work so hard and if the officers in management weren’t such effective leaders, I couldn’t have won the award.”

Fraud, Waste and Abuse is everyone’s problem ... if you know of or suspect Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.

DoD announces new automatic TRICARE re-enrollment program

The Department of Defense announced a new healthcare innovation is now in effect that will make repeat “TRICARE Prime” participation easier.

As of May 1, the need to submit an annual TRICARE re-enrollment became obsolete. In a phased introduction, re-enrollment is automatic unless a beneficiary declines the “Prime” option. Dr. Sue Bailey, assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs said, “Automatic re-enrollment eliminates the need for a Prime beneficiary to fill out paperwork every year. The improvement will remove a burden on our beneficiary and improve the TRICARE Prime benefit by simplifying the process for our Prime enrollees.”

Beneficiaries will begin receiving notification from their regional contractors about the automatic re-enrollment 30 days prior to the anniversary date of their original sign-up with the military managed care plan.

Regions 1 (Northeast), 2 (Mid-Atlantic) and 5 (Heartland) were the first regions to implement automatic re-enrollment, beginning May 1. All other regional contractors began automatic re-enrollment June 1. “Our goal is to streamline the re-enrollment process and to eliminate paperwork,” said Dr. James Sears, executive director, TRICARE Management Activity. “Our Prime beneficiaries should be able to continue to enjoy the benefits of TRICARE without having to return forms every time their enrollment anniversary rolls around. A response to the notification is required only if a beneficiary wants to make changes or disenroll from the Prime benefit.”

Thirty days before a beneficiary’s enrollment anniversary, the regional contractor

will send written notification, and if applicable, an invoice for the annual enrollment fee. The invoice will include options for full or quarterly payments. Monthly installment payments also will be accepted via allotment or electronic funds transfer, beginning next year.

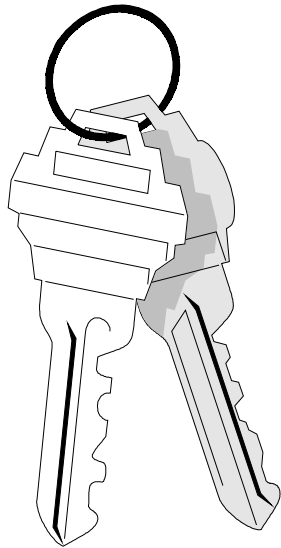
A beneficiary may decline further TRICARE Prime enrollment, and may re-enroll at any time as long as he or she remains eligible.

Beneficiaries covered by Prime who want to continue their coverage, but do not receive notification of automatic re-enrollment, or those with other questions about TRICARE, should contact their regional TRICARE office.

Regional offices can be reached by calling the following toll-free numbers:

- Northeast (Region 1),** 1-888-999-5195;
- Mid-Atlantic (Region 2),** 1-800-931-9501;
- Southeast (Region 3),** 1-800-444-5445;
- Puerto Rico and Latin America (Region 4),** 1-888-777-8343;
- Heartland (Region 5),** 1-800-941-4501;
- Southwest (Region 6),** 1-800-406-2832;
- Central (Regions 7/8),** 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378);
- Southern California (Region 9) and Golden Gate (Region 10),** 1-800-242-6788;
- Northwest (Region 11),** 1-800-404-0110;
- Pacific (Region 12),** 1-800-777-8343;
- Hawaii,** 1-800-242-6788;
- Alaska,** 1-888-777-8343;
- Europe,** 1-888-777-8343.

Information is also available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>.



Remember
home security:
Keep your
doors locked

Air Force assists FVAP in voting slogan contest

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Federal Voting Assistance Program office is sponsoring a voting slogan contest to promote interest in the democratic process among citizens covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

To participate, Air Force personnel or their family members must create a simple slogan (or slogans – there is no limit to the number of entries you can submit). The slogan should express the importance of voting or inspire someone to vote. Submit slogans to the FVAP no later than July 6.

A panel of judges will review all slogan submissions and choose the winning slogan based on originality and motivation value. The winning slogan will be featured in the FVAP's 2000/2001 Media Campaign that focuses on increasing voter awareness among U.S. citizens worldwide and encouraging them to vote.

The author of the winning slogan will be given a certificate of recognition signed by the sec-

retary of defense.

All submissions – whether submitted by mail, e-mail, or fax – must include full name (service, if military), mailing address, daytime phone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available). If submitting by mail or fax, please type or print on regular 8.5X11 paper.

Mail entries to:
Federal Voting Assistance Program
ATTN: Voting Slogan Contest
Washington Headquarters Services
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20301-1155

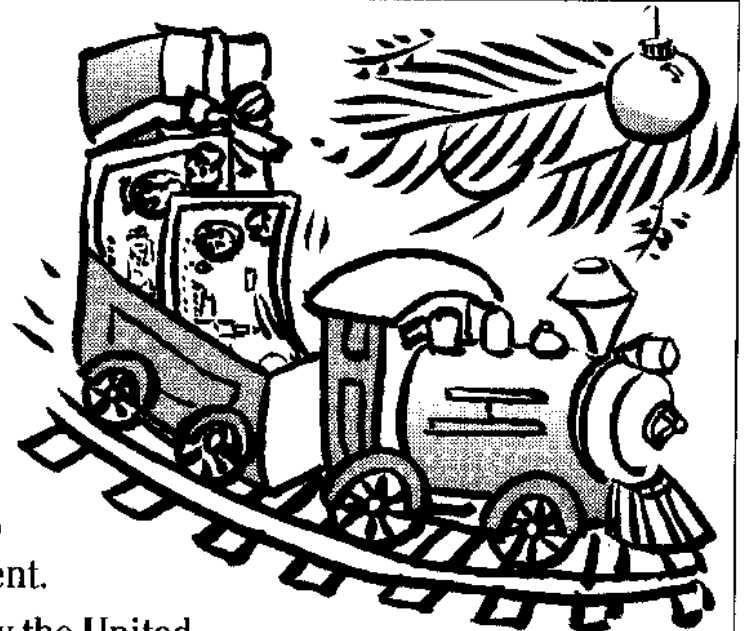
E-mail entries to vote@fvap.gov. Fax entries to (703) 588-0108 or DSN 425-0108 (A cover sheet is not necessary). For additional information, visit the FVAP's Website at <http://www.fvap.gov> or the Air Force Voting Program Website at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/ccprog/> or contact the Air Force Voting Program POC, Tech Sgt. Sophia Barnard, at DSN 665-2563.

(AFPC)

Stay on Track!

Keep your savings plan moving along smoothly with U.S. Savings Bonds, a market-based investment.

Bonds are safe, backed by the United States and offer their owners certain tax benefits. Get on the track and buy bonds regularly through the payroll savings plan.



Take
Stock
in America **U.S. SAVINGS
BONDS**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Eye on the ball

David McCracken, T-38 maintenance, lines up a shot during the base 8-ball pool tournament. The four-day tournament took place at the Fiesta Center and was sponsored by the 47th Services Division on request by some of the regular pool players. McCracken was one of nine players competing; each of the top three finishers receive a pen-and-clock desk set.

Sports Briefs

Basketball tournament

The XL Fitness Center is sponsoring a three-on-three basketball tournament starting at 9:30 a.m. June 26 at the fitness center. The tournament is open to all base active duty and dependent personnel.

Games will be 15 minutes long, or be won by the first team to reach 12 points. Each team is allowed one alternate. Members must call their own fouls.

Registration ends June 25 at noon. For more information, call 5326.

Youth fitness

Base teens are encouraged to participate in the following activities sponsored by the Youth Center and the fitness center.

- Teen basketball is 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.
- Teen midnight basketball is 10 p.m. until midnight Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Teen muscular fitness hour is 2-3 p.m. Wednesdays.
- Youth cardiovascular hour is 2-3 p.m. Mondays.

All activities take place at the fitness center. Teens interested in attending muscular fitness and cardiovascular programs should come by the Youth Center to sign in before going to the fitness center.

For more information on these programs, call the Youth Center at 4363.

Intramural softball schedule (Revision 4 - current as of Thursday)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
7 p.m. 10 vs 4	3 vs 1	10 vs 6
8 p.m. 6 vs 9	4 vs 2	2 vs 5
9 p.m. 7 vs 8	5 vs 10	3 vs 4

June 28	June 29	June 30
7 p.m. 1 vs 8	6 vs 2	4 vs 1
8 p.m. 9 vs 7	7 vs 10	2 vs 7
9 p.m. 5 vs 3	8 vs 9	10 vs 8

July 6	July 7	July 12
7 p.m. 1 vs 9	5 vs 1	8 vs 2
8 p.m. 3 vs 6	6 vs 4	9 vs 10
9 p.m. 4 vs 5	7 vs 3	5 vs 6

July 13	July 14	July 19
7 p.m. 1 vs 10	4 vs 7	6 vs 1
8 p.m. 2 vs 9	9 vs 3	7 vs 5
9 p.m. 3 vs 8	10 vs 2	8 vs 4

July 20	July 21	July 26
7 p.m. 3 vs 10	2 vs 3	3 vs 1
8 p.m. 2 vs 1	5 vs 8	8 vs 6
9 p.m. 4 vs 9	6 vs 7	9 vs 5

July 27
7 p.m. 1 vs 7

Teams: 1. CES	2. 87th	3. 84/85th
4. LCSAM	5. CS/CONS/SVS	6. MDG
7. OSS	8. 86th	9. MSS
10. LSI		

Community Highlights

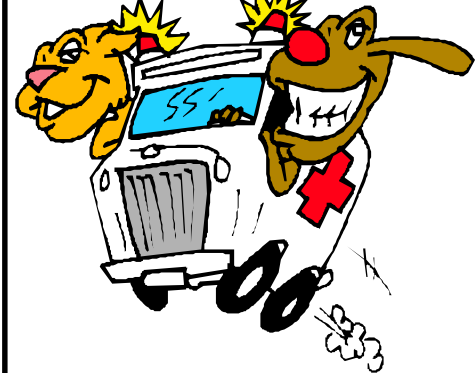
What's Happening?

Veterinary Clinic

The veterinarian will be here Thursday from 9 - 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 - 6 p.m at the veterinary clinic.

Call in early to set up an appointment. Remember to bring your pet to the clinic for its yearly vaccinations.


For more information, call Ext. 5500.



XL Fitness Center

- Three on Three Basketball Tournament at 9 a.m. June 26 at the XL Fitness Center.

For more information, call Ext. 5251.

	TODAY	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU
Club XL 298-5134	Lunch- from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open to all members Friday Night Dining from 5 - 8 p.m., your choice of Prime Rib, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Baked Cod Filet	Pepperoni's 4-10 p.m. Don't forget to try "Pasta Night" every Thursday from 5-8 p.m. at Club XL	Hearty Father's Day Sunday Brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nonmembers pay an established surcharge.	Lunch- from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open to all members Tony's Discount Steak Night from 6 - 8 p.m.	Lunch- from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open to all members Tuesday Teaser- Oriental Buffet 5-8 p.m.	Lunch- from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open to all members Pepperoni's 4-9 p.m.	Lunch- from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open to all members \$4.95 "Pasta Night" All You Can Eat 5-8 p.m. Intake Lounge from 4:30-9 p.m.
Club Amistad 298-5346	D.J. from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Don't Forget About Tony's Discount Steak Night every Thursday from 6 - 8 p.m.	BINGO from 5:45 - 8:30 p.m. Open to all members KARAOKE "Sing Your Heart Out" with Jim B. from 6-9 p.m.	 CLOSED	BINGO from 6:45-9:30 p.m. More than \$3,600 in cash and prizes each week Open to all members	\$1 Long necks from 4-6 p.m. BINGO at 6:45 p.m.	Pepperoni's! "HOT, FRESH AND FAST!" Call 5407	
Chaparral Dining Facility 298-5295	Lunch- Salmon cakes, French fried shrimp, savory baked chicken Dinner- Sukiyaki, onion-lemon baked fish, ginger barbecued chicken	Brunch- Roast rib of beef, pasta primavera Supper- Pepper steak, mustard-dill baked fish, Caribbean jerk chicken	Brunch- Grilled pork chops, roast turkey Supper- Baked fish, sauerbraten, French fried shrimp	Lunch- Veal Parmesan, teriyaki chicken, salmon cakes Dinner- Meat loaf, spicy baked fish, Caribbean Jerk Chicken	Lunch- Baked ham, baked turkey and noodles, lemon baked sole Dinner- Roast pork loin, tamales pie, lemon-herb chicken	Lunch- Parmesan fish, barbecued chicken,zechwan beef Dinner- Lemon baked fish, honey glazed rock cornish hens, Jaeger-schmizel veal with mushroom sauce	Lunch- Swiss steak, with tomato sauce, Chinese five spice chicken, seafood pie Dinner- Grilled Polish sausage, roast loin of pork, chicken enchiladas
Menus are subject to change without notice.							
Youth Center Bldg. 390 298-5343	Teen Cosmic Bowling 8 p.m. to Midnight Members bowl for half price	Pre-Teen Swim Party 8 - 11 p.m. Friendship Pool Members: FREE Guests: \$1	CLOSED	Teen Basketball 2 - 4 p.m. XL Fitness Center Monday-Friday	Teen Midnight Basketball 10 p.m. to Midnight	Roxanne's Cooking Class 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Members: FREE Nonmembers: 50 cents	Parent Advisory Meeting 5-6 p.m. Teen Midnight Basketball 10 p.m. to Midnight XL Fitness Center
Gymnastic Classes now forming, come by the youth center. For more information, call 4363.							

Swimming pools

- Swimming and aquatic programs registration for session three from 4-6 p.m. June 30 at the Fiesta Center.

For more information call 775-6197.

Southwinds Marina

- Southwinds Marina will have a **Fourth of July Picnic** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 3. There will be \$1 hot dogs and hamburgers and FREE pontoon rides. Come one and all and enjoy a day in the sun. Fun for the whole family.

- Don't forget about our **Panther Cave Tours** the second Saturday of each month. Enjoy cave painting and dwellings that are several hundred years old.

- Every Thursday you get 10 percent off on certain boats rented during the day.

- Here's something new - any organized group from 10 to 14 people wanting a **small tour of the lake** can make arrangements through our office. The tour will last approximately one and a half hours and visit the dam and Rough Canyon areas and will only cost \$5 per person.

For more information, call 775-7800.

Fiesta Center

Outdated clothes in your closet? Well then, bring those household oldies to the next flea market from



6:30 - 10 a.m. Saturday in the Fiesta Community Center. Tables are \$5 each. Setup dates are from 4 - 6 p.m. today and from 6 - 6:30 a.m. Saturday. Commercial vendors and food items are not permitted.

For more information, call 5474.

Youth Center

Gymnastic Classes are available at the Fiesta Community Center, Mondays and Wednesdays. Intermediate classes: 4-5 p.m., advanced classes: 5-6 p.m., cost is \$30 per month - \$20 for the second child. Classes are for children 6 years and older, all sign-ups and payments will be made at the youth center.

For more information, call 4363.

Cactus Bowling Lanes

- If you're a dad, come on down to the **Cactus Bowling Lanes**. Dads bowl FREE when accompanied by their children from 1-5 p.m. Saturday. Children pay only a \$1 per game. The bowling center will provide door prizes every hour until 5 p.m. Two FREE bowling balls will be given away to participating fathers.

Youth ages 18 or younger are encouraged to join the celebration with their fathers. It is not necessary that you know how to bowl - the knowledgeable staff will be there to assist in getting started and provide bumpers if desired. Don't miss out on the fun; enjoy Father's Day at the Cactus Bowling Lanes.

For more information, call 5526.

Club XL

- Do something special for dad. Treat him to Club XL's **Hearty Father's Day Brunch** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$6.95 per person for an all-you-can-eat breakfast/lunch extravaganza.

- If you're in the mood for fine seafood dining, then don't miss Club XL's **"Catch of the Sea" Seafood Buffet** from 5-8 p.m. June 25. Advance tickets will be available through Wednesday and are \$10.95 for adults and \$5.95 for children ages 3-8. Tickets purchased afterwards or at the door are \$14.95 for adults and \$7.95 for children ages 3-8. **Open to all ranks. Eligible nonmembers pay an established surcharge.**

For more information, call 5134.

Stress A-Way Inc.

- **Stress A-Way, Inc.** is having a June special. Make your reservation now and receive a one-hour massage for just \$30.

Call 774-0115 to make your appointment.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments call Jesus I. Diaz, at 5826 or send e-mail to jesse.diaz@laughlin.af.mil.



Photo by 1st Lt. Angela O'Connell

Dream come true

Col. Dan R. Goodrich, 47th Flying Training Wing commander (left) and Col. Lyle Andvik, 119th Fighter Wing commander, Fargo N.D., adjust the harness in an F-16 from the 119 FW before a local-area-flight here June 3. Flying in the F-16 has been a dream of Goodrich's for many years. Andvik was here visiting an undergraduate pilot training student bound for his unit.

Yard debris

Housing and mobile park residents should place leaves and grass clippings in trash bags. These items and branches should be set by the curbside for pickup on the first and third Mondays of each month. Please do not put these items in refuse or recycling containers.

All questions and complaints about refuse and recycling should be directed to Patricia Lunn at 5247.

Father's day bowling

Cactus Lanes will celebrate Father's Day, Sunday, with activities starting at 1 p.m. Fathers bowl free when their children bowl for \$1 per game.

Lanes will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The center will provide door prizes every hour until 5 p.m. Youth ages 18 or younger, authorized to use the center, are encouraged to join the celebration with their fathers. It is not necessary to have bowled before because the bowling center staff will be there to assist in getting started and provide bumpers if desired.

For additional information, call 298-5526.

Bowl-A-Thon:

The Black Heritage Committee will have a Bowl-A-Thon from noon until 4 p.m. today at the Cactus Lanes.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards scholarships the committee will present in 2000. The cost to bowl is \$2.50 for 3 games, including shoes. Bowlers are also asked to get sponsors who will pay

them by the pin or a flat donation. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this fun and worthwhile event.

To sign up and get tally sheets, contact Eddie Adams at 5520 or 4726.

Texas archeological society

The public is invited to attend an open house at the site of the Texas archeological society's 1999 Field School at Amistad National Recreation Area, San Pedro Campground, today from 2-5 p.m.

Archeological work at the site has included survey, rock art recording and documenting a variety of historic and prehistoric sites, such as burned rock middens, hearths and rock rings from prehistoric shelters.

The open house will be held at the San Pedro Campground on Spur 454 off Highway 90 West in Del Rio. Visitors will receive an overview of the field work and can also visit one of the actual sites. Maps will be provided to the site on request.

The Texas Archeological Society is a non-profit, state-wide organization of professional and avocational archeologists who volunteer their efforts to preserve and protect the heritage of Texas' past.

For more information on Amistad National Recreation Area and the Field School, call (830) 775-7491 or www.nps.gov/amis.

Lost and found

The 47th Security Forces Squadron makes every

effort to return lost, found and unclaimed property to owners. However, there are several unclaimed items in the lost and found.

If you have lost something around the base or have questions about lost and found items, contact Tech. Sgt. David Baldwin at 5249.

Management control training

Training for the management control program is scheduled at 9 a.m. today in the 47th Mission Support Squadron conference room. Information provided at this training will help people complete the units Statement of assurance, which is due to the financial management analysis office by July 27.

This training is mandatory for new primary and alternate representatives. Those who completed MCP packages last year are highly encouraged to attend.

If representatives are unable to attend, please notify Jim Capozziello at 4154.

Prayer breakfast

The monthly Prayer Breakfast has been rescheduled for 7 a.m. Wednesday in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. The old date conflicted with the Vacation Bible School schedule.

The guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Catherine M. Duncan, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander. All base personnel are welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact the chapel at 298-5111.

NCOA and PMEGA Meeting

The Laughlin Noncommissioned Officers Association and Professional Military Education Graduates Association will meet at 11 a.m. today in the Airman Leadership School building. These professional associations are highly visible, career enhancing organizations that assist the base and local community.

You don't have to be an NCO to join the team; youth is needed. Come out and see what we're all about.

If interested in these worthwhile organizations, please contact Tech. Sgt. Chris Clauser at 5441.

Conflict classes

The Life Skills Clinic is offering classes to deal with conflict and confrontation 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays until July 1, in the Life Skills Clinic conference room.

Please contact Tech. Sgt. Alan Mills or Airman 1st Class Patricia Fulce for more information at 6422.

Uniforms wanted

The Civil Air Patrol of Columbus, Ohio, needs uniforms.

Military members who have Air Force uniform items of any type (blues old or new, battle dress uniforms, mess dress, flight gear) that no longer fit, or that they no longer use, can consider making a tax deductible donation to the CAP. There is an ongoing need for hats, boots, shoes, ribbon bars and other miscellaneous items.

Please send your items to Capt. Kim Picklesimer, at 818 S. Richardson, Columbus, Ohio, 43204.

If you provide an estimate of value and a self-addressed envelope or an e-mail address, a tax receipt for your donation and shipping cost will be provided.